



TRW
Docket No.: LUN-200
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Mingzhi Li

Application No.: 10/025,790

Confirmation No.: 5866

Filed: December 26, 2001

Art Unit: 2154

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR NETWORK
BASED SELF-HELP SERVICE

Examiner: J. Joo

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated August 10, 2005 (Paper No. 1), Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-7, drawn to a network based self-help system, with traverse.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement on the following grounds:

Applicants believe that claims of 1-7 and claims 8-16 have a special relationship. Claims 1-7 relate to a network based self-help system constructed by a network communication system connecting a network management center and a plurality of customer terminals. Claims 8-16 relate to an operating method for the network based self-help system. The methods defined in claims 8-16 are how to utilize the network systems of claims 1-7 and essential elements to perform the methods include the network communication system, a network management center and a plurality of customer terminals of claims 1-7.

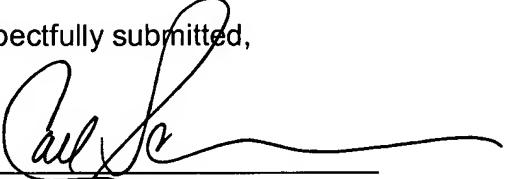
It is respectfully submitted that the present application does include claims that are so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. Thus, claims 1-16 should be considered in a single application.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search or the subject matter of any one group of claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP 803 which is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims that are distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added).

It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply to the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and the duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Dated: September 9, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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